

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

1 September 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

We have our first week back under our belts and the schools are bustling!

Surveillance Testing

The VT Agency of Education (VTAOE) and VT Department of Health have contracted with a third party to provide a robust surveillance testing program for students, faculty and staff. GISU was selected to run the very first pilot of the new system. Last week we tested over 100 students, faculty and staff at Folsom and North Hero. As expected with pilots of this nature there were some logistical challenges and bugs to be worked out. The good news is more than 99% of the tests were successfully tested and 100% of the results were negative. We will test again this Friday at Folsom and North Hero and anticipate that regular testing will be available by the end of September. This surveillance testing program is voluntary and students will only be tested if parents opt into the program and sign a consent.

Important things to help keep students, faculty, staff, and communities safe:

All students and staff should stay home if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19;
- Have a fever (temperature greater than 100.4°F); or
- Are currently in quarantine due to close contact with an individual with COVID-19 or in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19.

If symptoms begin while at school, the student or staff member should be sent home as soon as possible, and the individual should be isolated from other staff and students until they can go home.

Wear Masks

Masks are required for all people at GISU Schools, when indoor, as well as when students and adults are not able to practice social distancing when outside..

Practice Good Hand Hygiene

Wash and sanitize hands frequently.

Based on our experiences last year, most cases of COVID -19 are not transmitted at schools and following these three precautions will go a long way to helping slow the spread of the virus which will help keep the schools in session. Thank you for your help!

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New Superintendent Guidance for COVID 19 Safety Protocols

Over the last couple of weeks I've been sharing the Safety Protocols GISU will follow to keep students, faculty, and staff safe. In addition to those protocols this I'm sharing information about what we will do when positive cases are at schools

<p><u>Contract Tracing Guidelines</u></p>	<p>GISU will participate in contract tracing and will rely on guidance from the Vermont Department of Health. Please see this 8-20-2021 memo for current VTAOE and VDH Guidance</p>
<p><u>Quarantining Guidelines</u></p>	<p>GISU will follow quarantining guidelines as recommended/required from the VT Department of Health and Agency of Education. Some resources provided in the 8-20-2021 VT AOE Memo as well as this section of the VDH website.</p>
<p><u>“Remote Learning” Procedures</u></p>	<p>Schools will support students as appropriate within the rules and regulations as promulgated by the State Board of Education</p> <p><i>It is important to note that as of 9-1-2021 based on the Vermont State Board of Education Rules the Vermont Secretary of Education has explicitly stated that students who need to quarantine (either because they are a close contact, have tested positive for the virus, or have to stay home due to having symptoms of the virus) will not count towards being in school. In other words there is not a remote option for learning in Vermont Schools this year. If Vermont Schools do not have an attendance rate of more than 50% on any given day, the day does not count towards the statute requirement of 175 days. In all likelihood if a GISU school was at less than 50% attendance we would have to close for the day and make it up if it caused us to go below 175 days.</i></p>

Community Meeting

Tonight's Community Meeting will focus on What is a Close Contact at School? We will record this information and post it to our COVID Communications link at www.gisu.org. As usual, there will be a time for community members to ask questions and share their experiences. The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below.

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 6:00 p.m

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

[Join by phone](#)

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Thank you for helping to ensure that all members of the GISU learning community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever changing world.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent